

**Maine HICKRC**  
**RFP 01 for**  
**Health Information Connectivity-Knowledge Rural Consortium**  
**(HICKRC)**

The following questions and responses are being posted for the RFP identified above.

Date: August 4, 2014

Question	Response
1. Do you have any specific requirements or locations where you want Internet 2 Access?	There are no specific requirements or locations for Internet 2 Access.
2. Do you plan to implement and install any of your own Networking equipment for the Wide Area Network or are you relying on the Service Provider for that functionality?	We do not plan to install or implement our own Networking equipment for WAN. The Service Provider will provide that function.
3. Do you plan on having any centralized locations (i.e. Customer HUB sites) that provide services to the remote locations or is this to be built as an Any to Any (ELAN) solution?	We do not have any HUBs; services to remote locations will be ELAN.
4. Will this RFP be awarded in an "All or None" manner, or in other words will ALL sites noted need to be afforded connectivity options in order for the overall award to be granted?	A bidder does not have to bid on all sites; yet the RFP contemplates that all sites are to be served. Bidders that bid "umbrella" service may be viewed as more fully meeting the RFP request.
5. HCF states that awards are required to go to the most cost-effective provider, however the RFP states on page 4, subsection b. at bottom that award will not necessarily go to the lowest bid. Are	The reference that the bid may not necessarily go to the lowest bid is wording from the general RFP language which is intended to follow the requirement that cost equals 25% of the score.

<p>there any missing sections to this as the subsection seems out of place.</p> <p>6. Is any private line, site to site connectivity required for any locations?</p> <p>7. Are any HUB sites being contemplated?</p> <p>8. Page 11, section 6, item 1 indicates the need for vendors to provide 4 increments of internet bandwidth. What 4 bandwidth speeds would be preferred by the HICKRC membership?</p> <p>9. Will all 59 sites be awarded at one time? If not, what is the expected timeframe to add them onto the network?</p> <p><b>10. Reference: B. Submission of Proposals #2</b></p> <p>Comment: Format for the Proposal states that bids are to be submitted in printed and electronic formats with RFP Identifier. So are you requesting 7 printed copies (1 original and 6 copies) and a searchable CD?</p> <p><b>11. Reference: Pg 4</b></p> <p>Comment: Can you please provide an expected award date?</p> <p><u>The following question was received and responded to on August 4, 2014:</u></p> <p><u>12. Am I correct in stating that the Consortium requesting bids on 100 Mbps for the members and 25 Mbps for the public?</u></p>	<p>No private lines are required, yet bidders may submit bids that contemplate private lines.</p> <p>See response to No. 3.</p> <p>The HICKRC membership prefers the highest bandwidth speed at the lowest cost. Bidders may identify the speeds and costs that they can provide service as there are no set required speeds.</p> <p>The HICKRC intends to award the bid for all 59 sites at the same time. The HICKRC believes that sites will roll-on at various times over the first six months or so, depending on the service and the capability of the site to implement services. Please note that the six month estimate is an estimate.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>We estimate an award date range of September 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014, depending on the number and types of bids received.</p> <p><b><u>The service agreement requires provision for:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Entities participating in the Consortium: A minimum of 100 Mbps up to one (1) Gbps of fiber or equivalent connectivity.</u></b></p> <p><u>Public Internet service: A minimum of 25 Mbps up to one Gbps of fiber or equivalent connectivity.</u></p> <p><u>Limited exemptions of the minimum connectivity for Consortium entities or public internet service may be considered for a particular site(s) at the</u></p>
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	<p><u>discretion of the Consortium. Vendor proposals must specifically identify in the table below (Attachment 1-2, Participating Entities and Connectivity), any site the Vendor is seeking exemption; state the requested alternative minimum connectivity; and an explanation of why the exemption is necessary.</u></p>
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